(b) whether there is any immediate policy to rescue the State as well as the North-Eastern Region from this suffering which caused harm to the economic development aspect also; and

(c) the special policy under NHDP to counter permanently the frequent devastating effects of flood in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The stretch of National Highway No. 31 from Islampur to Chalsa in West Bengal and from Bijni to Guwahati in Assam suffered damages due to flood this year. Urgent repair works to keep these sections of National Highways in traffic-worthy conditions and improvement in riding surface, are being taken up through respective State Public Works Departments.

(b) Ministry has constituted committees at State levels to identify and study flood-prone sections of National Highways in various States including the States in North-East Region and to suggest permanent remedial measures. The reports of these State level Committees will be reviewed by a National level Committee constituted by the Ministry. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, suitable engineering measures will be considered.

(c) For projects under National Highway Development Project (NHDP), engineering measures for permanent solution for flood-prone stretches of National Highways are adopted during detailed project preparation stage.

Maintenance of National Highways in Gujarat

1029. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans and advances received from the World Bank/ Asian Development Bank and other international financial institutions for construction and maintenance/repair of National Highways/Bridges in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) whether the loan amount was spent for those proejcts;

(c) if not, whether such loans and advances have been spent for some other purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) One loan agreement for an amount of US $ 180 million has been signed in October 2000 with Asian Development Bank for rehabilitation and upgradation to four-lanes of Surat-Manor Section of National Highway-8 (*i.e.*, Surat-Manor tollway Project, 118.2 km in Gujarat and 57.4 km in Maharashtra), which is under progress.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Upgradation of roads into National Highways in Gujarat

1030. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented for upgradation of 2800 Kms. of roads into National Highways;and

(b) by when the proposals are going to be accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) All the proposals received from the State Governments, including that of Guajrat, have been returned to them in June 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to funds constraint. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highway during the crouse of the Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Funds to Uttar Pradesh under PMRY

†1031. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released to Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana during the year 2001-2002, district-wise; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.